

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office Of The Governor

WHEREAS, During his five years as District County Judge and thirteen years as an Assistant Attorney General, Clair Ledbetter has excelled as a master historian, storyteller, bard, bullshit artist, and spinner of yarns; and,

WHEREAS, Without regard for his personal safety, Clair challenged every legal secretary on every period, comma, capitalization and word usage; and,

WHEREAS, Because every Friday "Red Folder" Ledbetter insisted on the extradition of some poor fugitive regardless of the hour, the legal support staff lovingly lament his departure; and,

WHEREAS, No man, other than Clair, has had enough patience to endure "duty day" for thirteen years; and,

WHEREAS, Only Clair could turn a question about the law into an explanation of native rituals sacred to equatorial pygmies; and,

WHEREAS, Clair has the exclusive and uncanny ability to so politely tell certain state's attorneys to go to hell, that they thank him for the invitation; and,

WHEREAS, Only Clair, in a remarkably cavalier fashion, would rebuke the United States Supreme Court for daring to question his compliance with procedural rules; and,

WHEREAS, No problem is too large or explanation too lengthy for Clair to handle after imbibing several Brandy Manhattans; and,

WHEREAS, The State of South Dakota can now surplus its last remaining set of the 1939 Code of South Dakota; and,

WHEREAS, State government will never be the same without Clair's ties; and,

WHEREAS, In spite of his advanced academic degrees and many office talents, Clair let his dog outsmart him and deprive him of a finger; and,

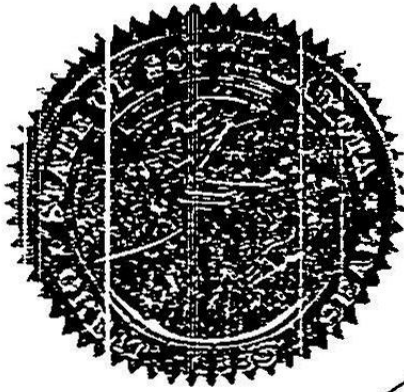
WHEREAS, Judge Ledbetter has determined that overparking in front of the Post Office is the only capital crime within the jurisdiction of a city court; and,

WHEREAS, Clair B. Ledbetter, the consummate gentleman and friend, has been an example to both the Bar and Bench in the State of South Dakota as a man of dignity, integrity, devotion, patience, and compassion—blended with a keen sense of humor and sharp wit:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE S. MICKELSON, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim July 29, 1988, as

CLAIR B. LEDBETTER DAY

in South Dakota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
set my hand and caused to be affixed
the Great Seal of the State of South
Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City,
this Twenty-Eighth Day of July, in
the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen
Hundred and Eighty-Eight


GEORGE S. MICKELSON, GOVERNOR

WITNESS:


JOYCE HAZELTHINE, SECRETARY OF STATE